The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

## WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.
Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Samuel Gompers said:
To insure liberty and personal welfare, personal relations must be controlled only by those concerned.

WHOLE NO. 2045 | William Green, *President* | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1950 | George Meany, *Secretary-Treasurer* | VOL. 40, NO. 25

## *Goldwyn, Loy and Walsh*

**Florence, Italy.—Listening to debate at United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization are, l. to r., Motion Picture Producer Samuel Goldwyn, Screen Actress Myrna Loy and President Richard Walsh of the AFL International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes. The conference approved expansion of the program for democratization and self-education measures in Western Germany.**

## Congress Finds Low Income Groups Losing Fight to Make Ends Meet

Washington.—The nation's low-income groups are losing ground in their fight to make ends meet.

Income doesn't cover outgo for necessities.

That's the gist of new economic studies just completed for the Joint Congressional Economic Committee.

Figures show that the lowest two-fifths of all spending units—ranked by size of income—broke even in 1945. But by 1948, these groups were in the process of "dissaving"—cashing accumulated savings or capital, or borrowing.

Four-fifths of Americans with incomes in 1948 received 53 percent of the total national income but they were able to save only 1 percent of the total net savings for the country.

What about the top one-fifth who received 47 percent of income in 1948? They saved 90 percent of the nation's total net savings.

Furthermore, in 1946, only 37 percent of all spending units were without government savings bonds. By 1949, 56 percent were without them. In other words, a net of about 11 million spending units—families, for the most part—disposed of all the government bonds they owned in the three prosperous years from 1946 to 1949.

And we are living in what Administration opponents choose to call "The Handout State," it is at least, mainly a handout to business, and the proportion is increasing.

The government outlays that went to business totaled at least 13.6 billion dollars in fiscal year 1949, will amount to 16 billion dollars in fiscal 1950, and are estimated at about 16.9 billion dollars in fiscal 1951.

## Levin Again Heads Labor News Group

Washington. — Member editors of the 8-month-old Labor Press Association laid out a program for the coming year designed to bring better and more complete press service to subscribing and member newspapers.

Ruben Levin of the staff of Labor, publication of the 15 railroad brotherhoods, was reelected president of LPA.

Mr. Levin said, "LPA's primary purpose is to provide a general press service for labor papers which will be free of all communist influence."

Elected to the board of directors with Mr. Levin were Max Danish, editor Justice, published by the ILGWU-AFL; Gordon Cole, editor the Machinist; Allan L. Swim, editor CIO News; Glen Slaughter, research director Labor's League for Political Education, AFL; Nathan Goldfinger, research director the United Paperworkers; Benjamin Haskel, editor the AFL Textile Challenger; Alfred B. Herrington, publicity director Communications Workers of America; Kenneth Feister, editor Textile Labor; Harry Poole, vice president the AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters; Frank Powers, editor the AFL Commercial Telegraphers Journal; Paul Sifton, legislative representative United Auto Workers; Vincent Sweeney, editor Steel Labor; Arthur MacDowell, research director AFL Upholsterers Union.

## FORM CO-OP

Washington.—The National Association of Housing Cooperatives was born June 14 and will be incorporated under the District of Columbia Cooperative Act. Representatives from the AFL and housing cooperatives from the eastern seaboard to Chicago participated in the meeting.

The new association will hold a constitutional convention in early fall where representatives from housing cooperatives from all over the United States will meet to ratify by-laws and create a long-range program.

### DUBINSKY HITS SOVIETS

New York.—David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, denounces Russian despotism and condemns those Americans who take their many blessings for granted, in a striking article in the July issue of Liberty magazine.

Born in Tsarist Russia, Mr. Dubinsky was exiled to Siberia at the age of 16, for persisting in associating himself with those working people striving for recognition. He knows from personal experience the "abominable form of society forced on the people by the Tsarist tyranny."

### Bag of Groceries Up 95c In Decade

Washington.—The average American city dweller now pays $1.95 for a bag of groceries that cost him $1 in 1935-39, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

Knoxville, Tenn., was tops among 56 cities surveyed. There, a bag of groceries which would have cost $1 in June 1940 now costs $2.16.

Columbus, Ohio, had the lowest figure—$1.78 for food that would have cost $1 by 1935-39 standards.

### BENEFITS IN CONTRACTS

Washington.—Sickness or accident benefit clauses were found in slightly more than 30 percent of a significant sample of labor-management agreements in effect during 1949, the U. S. Labor Department reported.

## Reds Knife Workers In Boycott of ILO

Geneva, Switzerland.—A walk-out by Polish, Czech and Hungarian delegations at the opening session of the 33d International Labor Conference was called the "grossest kind of irresponsibility" by Assistant Secretary of Labor Philip M. Kaiser, U. S. delegate to the conference.

The communist delegations walked out when they failed in their attempt to eject the Chinese Nationalist delegates. They have walked out of 20 other agencies affiliated with the United Nations on the same issue.

Shortly after the conference got under way with 43 of the ILO's 60 member nations represented, Poland moved to refuse seats to the Chinese Nationalists. The motion was seconded by Czechoslovakia and Hungary. However, the chairman, Leon Troclet of Belgium, ruled that the motion could not be entertained at that time but that the credentials committee would examine the issue and report later.

"This walk-out is of a purely political character," Mr. Kaiser said, "which indicates that these governments are playing politics with efforts to advance social justice. This flagrant action obviously contradicts the claims of these governments that they are interested in solving the grave economic and social problems of primary concern to working men and women which beset the world today.

"If these governments are genuinely concerned with the many important problems which are before us, they would have accepted the normal parliamentary procedures of the conference and assisted in the substantive work that is before us. The United States, along with the overwhelming majority of other governments, does not indulge in boycotts or walk-outs because its views are not accepted."

### PLAN LABEL DRIVE

Chicago.—Local 29 of the AFL International Broom and Whisk Makers Union planned an advertising campaign in metropolitan Chicago to create a demand for union label brooms and products to help keep members on a full-time working basis. The industry is 100 percent organized here.

## *Br'er Rabbit Mascot For Samuel Gompers*

(From Washington, D. C., Trades Unionist)

Washington.—At the close of the 32d annual convention of the American Federation of Labor at Rochester, N. Y., in 1912, the Rochester Herald ran an article and a picture along with the story of the convention. This story was different from the regular run of convention stories; it had to do with "Br'er Rabbit—Gompers' Mascot." The picture of Br'er Rabbit was very lifelike and ran in a two-column decorated box. The story ran as follows:

"'Uncle Remus,' so far as is known, never carried a union card, nor went on strike, never took part in the wordy battles in federation conventions, nor joined with those who bitterly oppose each other as to methods of conducting labor organizations. Yet, dear old 'Uncle Remus' plays an important part in federation matters. It was like this:

"Through his inimitable folk lore, stories in which Br'er Rabbit, Br'er Fox and Br'er Wolf played conspicuous parts, he helped to make happy the life of a little girl who lived below the Mason and Dixon line. And not only happy was she made, but her imagination was developed and enriched. When grown into young womanhood, this young woman went as stenographer in the office of President Samuel Gompers, in Washington. Intellectually she liked the clash of interests that had the armageddon in the office of the 'little labor chief,' but spiritually she had no sympathy for the great and growing labor machine. But as she was gradually taken more and more into the confidence of her 'boss,' she was caught in the swirl of the big movement, learned to admire the head of the federation and eventually became an indissoluble link in the chain that binds all good unionists together.

"As confidential secretary, she saw the intrigues of the labor movement, and saw how the ambitions of men, within and without the labor movement, centered 'round its head. She saw his diplomacy put to the greatest test; saw him skillfully counter the attacks of his enemies, and heard him laugh a mirthful laugh, a laugh without bitterness or rancor, as he outwitted his opponents. In his ability to outwit and his good-natured glee in his victories, his stenographer saw enacted over in real life the tales that had been impressed on her imagination by the pen of Uncle Remus (Joel Chandler Harris); of how Br'er Wolf and Br'er Fox entered into a wordy dispute with Br'er Rabbit; how Br'er Rabbit would first show his bobbing white tail to his enemies until he had reached his lair, whence he would turn and chuckle at their discomfiture.

"And so, one day when the stenographer was passing through a Washington department store she saw a stuffed rabbit — guileless, cute and withal affectionately cunning, and she detected in it the symbol of her conception of her chief, so she bought Br'er Rabbit and took it home, later to place it on her master's desk as a mascot. That was many years ago—how long would hardly be right to say—or President Gompers might be accused of breaking the child labor law. Since that time great labor battles have been fought and the president of the American Federation of Labor has been in some tight places, but the mascot has been true to its mission, the last time being yesterday, when, owing to its presence at noon in Hotel Seneca, the little big chief was once more chosen to lead the labor movement for another year."

## Alabama Will Show Value of Unions

Birmingham, Ala. — The Alabama Federation of Labor is surveying a cross-section of AFL unions to show the public that members make better citizens and are a greater asset to their communities than nonunion workers.

President Sam. S. Douglass said that questionnaires on union members' activities in buying homes, contributing to Community Chests and other welfare agencies, purchases of U. S. Savings Bonds, and performing other public services have been sent to 50 locals in the Birmingham area.

Two of the questions ask for comment on the free enterprise system and communism.

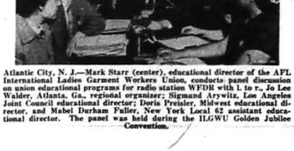
The Birmingham survey is the first step in compiling statistical data in keeping with the spirit behind establishment of a public relations department by the Alabama Federation at its recent 48th annual convention.

### COOPERATION SPREADS

Geneva, Switzerland.—Labor and management cooperation at the factory level is increasing, the International Labor Office reports.

In a survey of world-wide developments in industrial relations prepared for its 33d Assembly meeting the organization said: "The practice of fixing terms and conditions of employment by means of collective agreements is spreading steadily."

## *How to Educate*



**Atlantic City, N. J.—Mark Starr (center), educational director of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union, conducts panel discussion on union educational programs for radio station WFDR with l. to r., Jo Lee Walder, Atlanta, Ga., regional organizer; Sigmund Arywitz, Los Angeles Joint Council educational director; Doris Preisler, Midwest educational director, and Mabel Durham Fuller, New York Local 62 assistant educational director. The panel was held during the ILGWU Golden Jubilee Convention.**

## *State Safety Planners*

**Washington.—These members of President Truman's Conference on Industrial Safety directed or will plan governors' state meetings. Front row (l. to r.), Vincent P. Ahearn, executive director, President's Conference; Robert M. Murray, Rhode Island Department of Labor; Charles Sattler, Commissioner West Virginia Department of Labor; William L. Connolly, director U. S. Bureau of Labor Standards. Back row, Walter Coombs, chairman Montana Industrial Accident Board; C. George Krueger, New Jersey Department of Labor; Alfred C. Blackman, California Department of Industrial Relations; Arvid Tienson, Illinois Department of Labor; Paul E. Gurske, chairman Oregon Industrial Accident Commission.**

### Heads Musicians

**Houston, Tex.—James C. Petrillo was elected by the AFL American Federation of Musicians to his 11th consecutive term as president at the annual convention.**

## N. Y. Musicians Ask Tunes For Millions

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—For 3 years, members of a New York union local have been spending $7,000 a month as a public service for the people of the city. For this expenditure of $260,000 this union local has received the gratitude of their fellow New Yorkers.

Now the 30,000 members of Local 802, American Federation of Musicians, are asking Mayor William O'Dwyer to appropriate city funds and thereby continue and expand the free music program of the American Federation of Musicians set up by President James C. Petrillo with funds collected from the sale of commercial phonograph records. Purpose of this Recording and Transcription Fund has been to give some income and jobs to musicians displaced by "canned music."

In a specially printed report for Mayor O'Dwyer and public-spirited citizens, entitled "Music for the Millions," Local 802 reminded the city's chief executive that in 3 years it has spent well over a quarter of a million dollars for live music in hospitals, city, private and veterans; concerts in public halls, old age and convalescent homes and other places. No admission was ever charged. Some of the 2,000 concert programs attracted 50,000 people.

"It would be tactless self-glorification," the musicians' report states, "to imply that our motives in supplying free music were purely altruistic. Our program is part of a necessary task to extend employment opportunities to professional musicians. A large part of our membership is unemployed, displaced in large measure by mechanization inventions which disregard the human factor.

"We have attempted to reach that audience which most needs music—the sick, the old and the lonely . . . Unfortunately, we have been unable to do more than a minimum in providing music in institutions where the need is apparent."

The Local 802 programs have attracted wide public attention because live music has been heard in places where it hadn't been for years and years. Particularly has it been appreciated in hospitals and old age homes where music is so great a healer—physically and spiritually.

### GET 5 CENTS RAISE

Scranton, Pa.—Unionized employes of the Scranton Transit Co. ratified a new wage contract providing a 5-cent hourly wage boost. The pact was accepted by the AFL Streetcar Men's Union.

## 9 Governors Plan State Safety Talks

Washington. — Nine more states plan industrial safety conferences.

President Truman's Conference on Industrial Safety said that the second annual meeting early in June had stimulated interest in several other states for state-wide meetings of labor, industry and government representatives.

The conferences, of which 11 have been held, map programs to reduce accidents in industrial plants.

President Truman has called for a 50 percent reduction in industrial accidents by 1952. There was a 7 percent decline in 1949.

## Job Seeking Tough For June Graduates

Washington.—Job opportunities for the 1,700,000 young people leaving high school and college this summer have improved in the last few weeks, but the competition will be keen.

The U. S. Labor Department reported that while some fields were overcrowded, 1,000,000 persons are expected to retire from the labor force this year, making room for others.

But the department pointed out there still are more than 3,000,000 persons idle despite a 33 percent drop in unemployment between February and May. It said, however, there has been more than a seasonal increase in manufacturing, sales and output in that period.

## M.D. MAKES SENSE

Washington. — The Committee for the Nation's Health, supporting President Truman's health insurance plan, reports:

Dr. Milton Sills Lloyd, practicing physician in New York City, wrote the New York State Journal of Medicine (March 15, 1950, p. 730):

"We claim to be patronizing and promoting voluntary insurance plans and also that we are opposed to socialized medicine.

"In fact, however, socialization of medicine has been practiced by the doctors for centuries. We treat about one-half our patients for nothing and charge the other half twice or more than twice as much as would be necessary if everybody paid his way.

"In this manipulation, we actually set ourselves up as the sole arbiter in the distribution of wealth as between 2 classes of people. If a representative of the government does the same thing, we scream, 'socialism,' 'dictatorship,' and 'totalitarianism.'"

## DONATE BELLS

Washington.—The U. S. Treasury Department will present Liberty Bell replicas after the Independence Savings Bond drive, ending July 5, to each of the states for permanent display.

The inscription will say in part:

"The dimensions and tone are identical with those of the original Liberty Bell when it rang out our independence in 1776.

"In standing before this symbol, you have the opportunity to dedicate yourself, as did our founding fathers, to the principles of the individual freedom for which our nation stands."

The AFL supports the bond drive.

### PREFER 1-FAMILY HOME

Washington.—Over the last 30 years there has been a definite trend toward one-family houses as compared with two-family and multi-family, according to the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

During the 1920s, one-family structures comprised 60.7 percent of all new permanent nonfarm dwelling units. In the 1930s one-family structures made up 77.8 percent of the total, and in the 1940s they jumped to 82.9 percent.

### STRIKE WINS RAISE

Michigan City, Ind. — A 10-day strike by 1,000 employes of the Pullman Standard Manufacturing Co. ended when Local 290, Brotherhood of Railway Carmen (AFL) ratified a new contract, retroactive to last Jan. 1, containing a 3-cent across-the-board hourly wage increase and a liberalized vacation plan.

### UNEMPLOYMENT HIGHER

Ottawa, Can.—The Department of Labor's news release and the Canadian press hailed it as an 81,000 drop in unemployment during the first 2 weeks of May. But other observers compared the jobless figures for May 18 with the total for the corresponding date last year and saw an increase of 137,000 over a year ago.

Thus Canada's unemployment today, as summer employment approaches its peak, is almost twice as great as it was a year ago.

## *Ring Up $1,000,000 Sale*

**Washington.—L to r., Mrs. Thelma Dawson, administrative secretary Washington Building Trades Council; Mrs. Lindsey P. Rawley, women's chairman District of Columbia Savings Bonds Division, and AFL Vice President William C. Doherty, president National Association of Letter Carriers, ring replica of Liberty Bell to signal that AFL Government Employes Council went over $1,000,000 goal in Flag Day sale of U. S. Independence Savings Bonds.**

## AFL Urges Congress Give Cabinet Rank To Federal Security Agency Activities

Washington.—The AFL urged Congress to adopt President Truman's government reorganization plan to make Federal Security Agency the Department of Health, Education and Security with its head to be a member of the Cabinet.

Nelson H. Cruikshank, director AFL Social Insurance Activities, told the House Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Department that FSA now exceeds several existing cabinet departments in personnel and volume of expenditures.

"The far-flung interests and size of this agency, while they may be a cause of concern to some, indicate to the common people of this country the interest on the part of their government in the welfare of its citizens," Mr. Cruikshank said.

"By this I do not mean that working people expect the federal government to provide for their every need. They do believe, however, that it is appropriate for an agency of government to implement the American ideal that each individual should have an equal chance in the effort to make his own way to provide for the needs of himself and his family."

Mr. Cruikshank pointed out the plan guarantees the separate identity under competent professional persons of the Public Health, Social Security Administration and Office of Education.

Meanwhile the Senate prepared for a final vote on the bill to expand the coverage and benefits of the social security system. A bill more liberal in these respects than that passed by the House last October is expected to be approved by the Senate. The measure than goes to conference.

The AFL urged a higher wage base, raised from $3,000 to $3,600, for computing social security credits and a federal disability insurance plan to provide benefits for workers ill or injured.

### Post Office Ordering More Gompers Stamps

Washington. — That AFL "Buy Gompers Stamps" campaign has resulted in the Post Office Department ordering an additional 10,000,000 more printed showing Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL.

When the original printing of 112,000,000 stamps was placed on sale in honor of the 100th anniversary of Mr. Gompers' birth, AFL affiliates were urged to buy in quantities to stamp all mail for a year and thus keep the centennial alive.

The campaign is succeeding. Keep buying Gompers stamps!

## LLPE Needs Your $2 To Battle the Tafts

Washington.—AFL Labor's League for Political Education reported that Sen. Robert A. Taft's campaign slush fund is getting bigger and bigger as fat cats across the nation send in contributions.

Mr. Taft's managers will use the funds in an attempt to avoid defeat for the U. S. Senate by AFL-endorsed Joseph T. Ferguson next November.

LLPE quoted a Saturday Evening Post story that the contributions to the Taft fund "range from fat checks from the fat cats down to dollar bills from the humbler partisans."

The same kind of big money is rolling into campaigns to defeat liberals like Sen. Frank P. Graham in North Carolina and to reelect such reactionaries as Sens. Forrest C. Donnell in Missouri, Homer Capehart in Indiana, Alexander Wiley in Wisconsin, Eugene D. Milliken in Colorado.

The arch conservatives can be beaten only if the liberal groups provide the funds to do the educational job.

The AFL has asked each member to contribute $2 to LLPE before Aug. 1 to help win the kind of Congress America needs to keep moving forward.

Have you given your $2?

## JOINS LABEL GROUP

Washington. — The AFL International Handbag, Luggage, Belt and Novelty Workers Union has reaffiliated with the Union Label Trades Department.

Its union label appears on all union-made handbags, luggage, belts, key cases, novelties, billfolds and small leather goods. Jack Wieselberg is general president and Norman Zukowsky, general secretary-treasurer of the International union.

### *Heads Railway Execs*

**Washington.—George E. Leighty, president AFL Order of Railroad Telegraphers, was elected chairman of the Railway Labor Executives Association representing 20 standard railroad brotherhoods and 2,500,000 workers to succeed late Harry W. Fraser, president Order of Railway Conductors.**

## Public Must Know Who Pays Lobbying

(From The League Reporter)

Washington.—Keep a few important things in mind when discussing the House Committee on Lobbying Activities investigation.

Chairman Frank Buchanan (D., Pa.) has asked 166 corporations how much they spend for lobbying. He also wants to know what lobbies they support.

Already ultra-conservatives like Reps. Clare Hoffman (R., Mich.) and Eugene Cox (D., Ga.) are charging the committee is persecuting businessmen. As might be expected, daily papers are taking up the cry.

But remember this:

All the committee is trying to do is bring lobbying out in the open. The committee is not saying that a man or corporation should be forbidden to publish anti-Fair Deal pamphlets.

But the public must know who supports the Committee for Constitutional Government (CCG), which begs money from the public, in order to evaluate its proposals. The CCG has a perfect right to fight the Fair Deal—as long as it does not advocate overthrow of the government by force.

But so many businessmen think they must conduct their lobbying activities undercover. They believe it's no one's business who supports outfits like the CCG.

Contrast that to the AFL position on lobbying. When the AFL wants to support or oppose legislation, it sets out its position in its own name. It never resorts to secret alliances with front groups.

The whole purpose of laws regulating lobbies and investigations of lobbying is to bring pressure activities out into the open. That's the American way; to do things where all can see.

### GAIN 4 PERCENT RAISE

Chicago.—The third renewal of the employment agreement between Eastern Air Lines, Inc., and its flight attendants represented by the AFL Air Line Stewards and Stewardesses Association gives 450 flight attendants pay raises amounting to approximately 4% over the previous pay scale. Monthly rates of pay now begin at $190 per month and progress to a maximum of $270 per month for the 7th year of service and thereafter.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
## WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
## SUPPLEMENT

**Samuel Gompers said:**
In the "twilight zone" of federal and state jurisdiction, it is most difficult to have constructive legislation enforced that shall deal with the industrial affairs of our working people.

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1950 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

## *Dedicate Gompers Room*

Geneva, Switzerland.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany formally presents room furnished by the American Federation of Labor in honor of its founder and first president, Samuel Gompers, to the International Labor Organization which Mr. Gompers also helped to establish. At left is U. S. Assistant Secretary of Labor Philip M. Kaiser and (right) ILO Assistant Director General Jef Rens.

# *Granddad Gompers Liked 'Stuffing'*

By FLORENCE GOMPERS McKAY

*(Granddaughter of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL, sets down some of her recollections for the Washington, D. C., Trades Unionist. First of two articles.)*

Washington.—The life and works of Samuel Gompers have been covered in numerous volumes by fine writers, among whom were many of his fellow workers in the labor movement. In his autobiography he has outlined his career and much of his personal life in considerable detail. My contribution, therefore, can be only of my own unique relationship with him. In fact, this might well be called "I remember grandfather," for as I look back there comes to mind many precious memories of my childhood and young adulthood during all of which time my grandfather played a very vital part in my life and thinking.

To the world he was a labor leader; to me and the others of his large family he was the best possible father, grandfather and great-grandfather. There was no phase of our lives that was not of the keenest interest to him. Since I was the only one of his many grandchildren whose permanent home was in Washington, it was my privilege to be with him a great deal and we were pals. He took a keen interest in the doings of my generation and liked to have me tell him any new jokes I had heard. He wanted to know about my life and more than once helped me with my school assignments. I distinctly recall the time in high school when I was given, oddly enough, the affirmative side of a debate on "Should Labor Have the Right to Strike?" Grandfather came to the rescue, I filled pages with notes as the words flowed from him, and needless to say my side won hands down. He was very critical of my speech. He emphasized the importance of carefully chosen words, clearly and well pronounced, and had no patience whatsoever with the slangy jargon of the day. However, once in a while a particularly expressive and pithy slang word would capture his fancy and he would occasionally use it with a great air of wicked enjoyment.

To grandfather his home was his castle. No detail of the home and its inhabitants was beneath his notice. He was interested in his family and all that pertained to them. Although he gloried in their successes and grieved with them at their reverses they were all strictly on their own. He would never lift a finger to help them secure a coveted position or favor of any sort. He said "I cannot ask a favor of anyone; it is not myself I should be obligating but the American Federation of Labor and this I shall never do."

It was at grandfather's instigation that my family purchased a piano for me and started my having lessons at an early age. Although I never possessed any talent, he took an interest in my progress and insisted on hearing my newest pieces. He would listen patiently to my faltering renditions and offer encouraging criticism. Although I never became a pianist, it was in that home that my taste in music was formed. Grandfather had one of the early Victor machines and a superb collection of fine records, and many evenings we spent listening to the magic of Caruso, Schumann-Heink, Tetrazzini, Kreisler and the other great artists of that day.

Above all else he liked to gather his friends in his home and enjoy an evening of music, a game of cards or just good conversation. Sunday, when grandfather was in town, was "open house" and there was always large groups of interesting people—the well-known labor men of that time, James O'Connell, Andrew Furuseth, Frank Morrison, John Mitchell, Tom Tracy and many others. There would be representatives of every walk of life, a clergyman, an industrialist, an educator, a congressman or senator, occasionally a visiting governor or mayor of some large city. Among his friends he numbered several well-known actors and certain of them, such as Raymond Hitchcock, Primrose, Dockstader, and Neil O'Brien, never played Washington without planning to spend a few hours with him after the show. He would gather a group of people to meet the visiting star and we would have hilarious entertainment. I remember meeting at his house famous musicians, artists, writers, and cartoonists, such as Swinnerton, and then there were just "friends," his friends, his daughter's friends, and friends of friends. They were all welcome; he liked them all and liked to entertain them in his home.

In my very early youth, long before there was any thought of the national prohibition experiment, I was an ardent prohibitionist, and grandfather—who did not share my views—and I would have long arguments about the pros and cons of the issue. He apparently did not think it below his dignity to outline his ideas to one so young and to listen to mine on this and many other subjects that came up for discussion between us. In this connection, I recall an occasion when I walked into the dining room where grandfather and a group of his Elk brethren were standing with festive glasses in hand, and he said, "Gentlemen, may I introduce my white ribbon granddaughter?"

Like most families we made much of the big holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas but they always had to be celebrated at grandfather's. Every year grandmother would make an old-fashioned English plum pudding about the size and weight of a cannon ball and I remember with what ceremony grandfather would pour the brandy over it and light it while we watched the flickering blue flame burn itself out. He liked good food and a bountiful, well-set table, and was unsparing in his praise of the efforts of his wife and daughter to prepare the things he liked. Often have I heard him say "No one can make stuffing like mother."

## Myers Says Postal Slash Won't Stand

Harrisburg, Pa.—Sen. Francis J. Myers told the annual Pennsylvania Federation of Post Office Clerks convention that the U. S. Senate will not go along with drastic cuts in appropriations made by the House for the Post Office and other government services.

The House voted drastic cuts in personnel on top of the unwarranted slashes made by Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson in his April 18 orders which reduced mail deliveries to one a day.

The clerks, other AFL unions and affiliates, and the AFL Executive Council have called for a restoration of the postal services abolished.

Officers elected for a 2-year term are Emil F. Baiocco, Chester, president; Joseph A. Buckreis, Altoona, secretary-treasurer; James Shea, Sharon Hill, publicity director; Mrs. Helen Erickson, Scranton, president women's auxiliary, and Mrs. Catherine Meely, Erie, vice president.

# *AFL Works Around the World To End Poverty and Slavery*

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor is engaged in the most far-flung endeavor ever undertaken by an American labor organization to end poverty and slavery in the world and bring peace.

The voices of AFL officials, speaking for 8,000,000 free democracy-loving Americans, have been raised this summer in behalf of better conditions for all workers everywhere at meetings from Washington to Bombay.

AFL men and women have been pressing the American point of view in dealings with workers and governments of more than 70 nations in Brussels, Geneva, Berlin, Rome, Havana, Florence, Bombay and other far places.

Some of these activities at a glance:

1. AFL members composed the United States worker delegation at the International Labor Organization in Geneva pledged to raise worker productivity in the more than 60 countries in the organization so that wage earners in those lands may have more food and economic comforts.
2. Gordon W. Chapman of the AFL State, County and Municipal Workers is enroute to southeast Asia with a commission from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to encourage resistance to communist infiltration and aggression.
3. AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany attended ICFTU executive board meetings in Brussels and conferred with Italian trade unionists in Rome.
4. Here in the United States, AFL unions in many cities played host to visiting trade unionists from abroad.

Be independent by buying Independence Bonds.

## *Delaney Makes Point*

Geneva, Switzerland.—George P. Delaney (left), AFL international representative and U. S. workers' delegate to International Labor Organization, outlines employe views at ILO huddle with Rep. Augustine B. Kelley of Pennsylvania and U. S. Assistant Secretary of Labor Philip M. Kaiser, U. S. government delegates.

## Delaney Urges ILO Members to Copy U. S. Output in Products Like Shoes

Geneva, Switzerland.—AFL International Representative George P. Delaney, U. S. worker delegate, urged member countries of the International Labor Organization to copy American production methods to increase output of food, clothing and necessities.

Mr. Delaney's speech was probably the most important delivered during the world's first official international debate on ways to increase the productivity of labor.

The debate was on the report of ILO Director General David A. Morse calling for increased labor productivity as one method of attacking the poverty which breeds unrest, dictatorships and war.

Poverty anywhere is a threat to peace everywhere, the ILO holds. And the elimination of poverty will lay the groundwork for lasting peace.

In his speech Mr. Delaney cited shoe production. He said in 1949 the U. S. produced 3 pairs of shoes for every man, woman and child in the country whereas many countries do not produce as much as one pair per person in a year.

He said in part:

"American workers believe in high productivity. They know that it brings higher wages and shorter hours. They are not opposed to greater profits for their employers so long as their own standard of living rises in proportion. They have welded together a strong trade union movement to make sure that such a sharing of increased output takes place.

"American workers know that under the give-and-take of free industry and free labor within the framework of a democratic society their hours during the first half of this century have been reduced in most cases to 40 a week.

"The American workers know that while their hours have been decreased, their real wages have gone up. They have better housing, finer food, improved educational opportunities.

"American workers know that increased productivity through the teamwork of intelligent labor and resourceful management has accomplished this.

"We have found by long experience that our best hope of an expanding market lies at home—in the pay envelopes of the very workers who produce the goods. We are anxious to send our products overseas, of course. But it is not a part of the American economic philosophy to rely on foreign trade as the prime target for expansion.

"It is no secret that American labor's principal aim throughout the years has been to secure higher wages.

"Our unions have followed up their wage increases by active cooperation with employers in reducing expenses, eliminating waste and increasing output. Union economists have shown small employers how to operate more efficiently. The unions have even lent money to the employers to keep machinery going in slow times.

"American labor is sincerely anxious to extend the benefits of its experience to its fellow workers throughout the world. It does not claim to have a monopoly on cooperative intelligence, but it does have a certain advantage in the matter of cooperative experience. It would like to see the workers of Europe, of Asia, of South America, and of Africa able to enjoy the same opportunities.

"An example of what can be accomplished is contained in the statistics on the production of shoes. In 1949 the United States produced enough shoes to provide 3 pairs for every man, woman and child in the country. Many other countries do not produce as much as one pair of shoes per person per year. And even that less-than-one-pair of shoes is priced so high as to seem almost a luxury.

"A program to increase productivity in shoe plants and to reduce costs so that the shoes could be sold at prices within the workers' reach, would immediately benefit large numbers of people.

"We feel that the best place to begin is in the productivity centers now being established in Europe. These centers have the advantage of being set up on a tripartite basis—with labor, management and government all represented. Here can be studied the possibilities and effects of new machinery and better production methods. Here, too, can be established on a basis of mutual good faith real collective bargaining procedures to ensure that there will be a fair division of the profits resulting from increased productivity and the creation of adequate protection against the layoffs resulting from retooling or the introduction of labor-saving machinery or methods.

"These centers will succeed if the trade unions and employers' federations adopt with enthusiasm and vigor a program to educate the workers and their families."

## *AFL Leaders at ILO*

Geneva, Switzerland.—John J. Brennan (left), vice president AFL Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers International Association, and John J. Moreschi (right), associate counsel AFL Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers Union, confer on points of International Labor Organization debate.

## Textile Union Hits Peak of Strength

New York.—The AFL United Textile Workers is at the peak of its greatest strength.

Officials told the 11th biennial convention that in membership, wage gains and pension systems, the union is stronger than any time in its history.

President Anthony Valente enumerated the gains won in the last 2 years in wages and improved conditions in employment, as well as such matters as pensions.

"Already we have in existence several pension plans, financed solely by the employer which, when combined with the old-age pensions of the federal government, guarantees our old-timers approximately $100 a month when they retire from the industry," Mr. Valente said.

He said that in the southern cotton industry the UTW increased wages by 8 percent, bringing southern cotton workers near the average wage and minimum wage of the northern cotton worker. In rayon, he reported, UTW won a 15-cents-an-hour wage increase, as well as other contract improvements. In woolens and worsteds, improvements were won in working conditions, despite the depressed character of that segment of the textile industry.

Other gains reported were in the so-called "fringe" provisions, such as holidays with pay, vacations and insurance and hospitalization protection, as well as pensions.

Secretary-Treasurer Lloyd Klenert reported that the UTW dues-paying membership had reached a new peak of 78,858 in 1950 and chartered 25 new local unions since the previous convention.

### GIVE $50,000

Indianapolis, Ind.—The general executive board of the AFL Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners sent $50,000 to the Manitoba, Canada, Flood Control Commission to aid in rehabilitation of the people of flood-stricken Winnipeg.

AFL Vice President William L. Hutcheson, Carpenters president, told Prime Minister Louis S. St. Laurent of Canada that the donation was made because the Carpenters Union is "interested in the welfare and well being of the citizens of the provinces in your Dominion as well as being interested in the welfare of the citizens of the United States."

## Tobin Believes U. S. Can Avoid Crash

Geneva, Switzerland.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin told the International Labor Organization that he believes the U. S. will never again "experience a major depression such as we had in the early '30s."

He reported on the economic health of the United States to the ILO because he recognized "the economies of all our countries are interdependent" and that, as the ILO says, "poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere."

Secretary Tobin said in part:

"We are confident of our ability to avoid a major depression because of the great advances we have made in our social and economic legislation since 1933. The supports we put under our economy in these years stood us in good stead in 1949. They will be equally helpful in protecting our economy against serious recession in the years ahead. They are both a deterrent to depression and concrete evidence of the determination of the American people that we shall not have a repetition of that tragic era.

"We are moving steadily forward to strengthen our economy still further. In this Congress we have raised the minimum wage to 75 cents per hour, or $30 for a 40-hour week. We are now in the process of broadening the coverage and increasing the benefits of our social security system. Legislation accomplishing this objective will soon be on the President's desk for signature. The President has also requested action to expand the coverage and increase the benefits of our unemployment insurance system.

"We can now look back and assess the meaning of the experience of 1949. It was the first significant test of the stability of the post-war American economy.

"The question which had not been answered was whether the American economy—transformed in many ways by the economic reforms of the past 20 years and by changed governmental policy with respect to stabilization of the economy—was now such as to assure economic stability in substantial degree."

### HONOR BLAIR

Los Angeles.—The AFL National Newsletter of the Community Chest and Councils of America called the death of Aubrey Blair on May 27, 1950, prominent Los Angeles AFL leader, "a shock and distinct loss to his countless friends in organized labor and Community Chests and Councils."

# Senate OK's New Security Benefits

### SEND PROTEST

Washington.—Copies of a resolution of the Eastern Labor Press Conference condemning the unwarranted slash in postoffice services were sent to members of the House and Senate committees which have favorably reported resolutions ordering Postmaster General Jesse Donaldson to rescind his orders.

The resolution was printed by Fred S. Walker, editor the Washington, D. C., Trades Unionist, with names of the member editors.

## Knowland Wrecks Federal Standards

Washington.—As long as the United States government has appropriated funds for states, business and the people, it has established the minimum standards which must be met before the money can be used or the rules under which such sums can be spent.

In the case of unemployment compensation, a wiser Congress than the 81st ruled that no state could administer these funds in such a way to force workers to accept jobs at substandard wages and working conditions, or to act as strikebreakers, or to penalize workers for joining a labor union.

That Congress gave to the Secretary of Labor the authority to decide whether these standards operated and to enforce their operation.

But Sen. William F. Knowland of California introduced an amendment to the Social Security bill which will prohibit the Secretary of Labor from exercising this authority until after a court had ruled on his right. This could block the operation of U. S. standards for years.

The purpose of the amendment is clearly to permit the states to avoid compliance with the federal standards.

The Senate adopted the vicious Knowland amendment which can be used to break strikes and people. The AFL is making a determined effort to knock the provision out of the conference bill.

## Truman Urges Beat Taft and Donnell

Washington.—President Truman believes Sens. Robert A. Taft of Ohio and Forrest C. Donnell of Missouri will be defeated in November.

Both are opposed by the American Federation of Labor.

President Truman declared that the Democrats would, without doubt, elect a Democratic senator in Ohio this fall.

The President's comment was made at a news conference in which he also predicted victory for his party in Missouri's senatorial fight and repeated that he expected to do considerable traveling when the campaign gets into full swing.

"How would you vote in Ohio?" a reporter asked. Mr. Truman said that he would vote the straight Democratic ticket.

The President added with a grin, however, that he was taking part in the Missouri primary where he has indorsed the candidacy of State Sen. Emery Allison.

Asked if he thought Mr. Allison would win, the President declared there was no doubt about it.

## Predict Real Wages Will Double by 1980

Washington.—The average employes real hourly wages will double in about 30 years if production per manhour continues to rise at the same average rate as in the past.

This prospect was held out by the Research and Policy Committee of the Committee for Economic Development (CED) in a statement.

"In the last 50 years real wages per hour in the United States have increased more than three-fold. Today the average employe receives about $1.33 an hour. Back in 1900 the average was about 42 cents an hour in terms of 1949 prices. This represents an increase of approximately 2.5 percent per manhour per year," the committee said. "Allowing for price changes, an hour's work of an average employe today can buy more than three times as much in goods and services as an hour of work 50 years ago.

"Success in raising real wages is in the main a matter of increasing output per manhour. It is also a matter of keeping people steadily at work," the CED Research and Policy Committee said, in summarizing its conclusions. The outlook is good, it added, but 'future advances will not be rapid unless we have many important scientific discoveries, good management in industry and wise public policies."

### PRAISES HARRIMAN

Washington.—Paul G. Hoffman, Economic Cooperation Administrator, stated that Ambassador W. Averell Harriman, retiring as ECA special representative in Europe to become special assistant to the President, has made a major contribution toward the success of the Marshall Plan.

Washington.—The U. S. Senate voted 81-2 to overhaul the social security system, hiking benefits and bringing 10,000,000 more persons under the program.

The action brought many improvements long advocated by the American Federation of Labor and other liberal groups though the overhauling was not as far-reaching or complete as the AFL desired. There is still some hope that the bill finally approved by both houses of Congress and sent to President Truman will be better than either house passed because of incorporation of the best features of each measure.

The bill will raise payroll taxes as much as $18 per year per person to cover the higher benefits.

Sens. Hugh Butler (R., Neb.) and Harry P. Cain (R., Wash.) cast the only dissenting ballots.

Before the final vote, the Senate defeated efforts to increase benefits even more for certain groups of wage earners, but adopted a series of other amendments intended to strengthen the old age and survivors insurance program.

President Truman is committed to sign the bill, assuring the first broad reform of the 15-year-old program since it was launched in 1936.

The measure now goes back to the House, which passed a similar bill last session. If the House refuses to agree to the Senate amendments, it must go to a joint conference committee to thresh out differences between the 2 versions.

The Senate bill would extend social security protection for the first time to domestic servants, farm hands, persons who are their own bosses and several other groups.

It would double the minimum old-age benefit from the present $10 to $20 a month; increase the maximum family benefit from $85 to $150, and raise the average payments to individual workers from $26 a month to $49 a month.

When all increases under the new bill are taken into account, average benefit payments would be about double what they are now.

The Senate agreed by voice vote to increase the amount of wages subject to social security taxes from the present $3,000 to $3,600, a move urged by the AFL.

This would mean an increase of $9 a year to each worker now covered who earns $3,600 or more, with employers matching the boost.

It also would raise the maximum individual benefit for the aged from the present $72.50 a month to a new high of $80 a month.

Defeated by a voice vote was a provision to pay disability insurance to workers permanently disabled.

Approved by a voice vote was a resolution calling for a new study of social security, particularly proposals for "pay-as-you-go" systems to cover everybody.

The Senate bill generally provides more liberal benefits than the House version, which would increase payments an average of only about 70 percent.

The House bill, however, would add 11,000,000 persons to the program, and increase the tax rate to 2 percent on the first $3,600 of income, starting next January. The Senate measure would freeze the present 1½ percent rate until 1956, when it would begin rising to a maximum of 3¼ percent in 1970.

Neither bill comes up to requests by Mr. Truman, who wanted to add 20,000,000 workers to the 35,000,000 now covered, increase benefits even more sharply and raise the tax base to $4,800 a year.

A retired worker now receiving $30 a month would get $51 under the House bill and $56 under the Senate measure. His maximum family benefit under both would be $130, compared to $85 under existing law.

Higher up on the scale a worker now getting $56 a month would receive $84 under the House provision and $80 under the Senate measure.

The retired worker would get an added 50 percent of his individual benefit when his wife reached 65. He would also get an extra three-quarters of his personal benefit for one child under 18, and another 50 percent for each additional child under 18.

Under present law, this can go up to a maximum family benefit, including the worker's own payments of $85 a month.

## Federal Rent Lid Will End Dec. 31

Washington.—President Truman is due to sign a measure ending federal rent controls next Dec. 31.

The bill was passed by House and Senate to help members get through the election next November.

If Congress now follows its past practice of crippling rent control by appropriating insufficient funds for its administration, then even the 6 months' extension will be lax.

Local governments can keep federal rent controls after Dec. 31 until June 30, 1951, if they vote to do so and so advise the federal government.

Central and local labor unions will be wise to begin now to plan a campaign to have rent controls extended in their cities. Most AFL members are still under federal rent controls and removal of these curbs would mean a sudden increase in family expenditures for millions of union families throughout the country.